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kw-II of NSD File
No 28/11/58 Vol-V
No. Amb/ P-11/58

Total No of Pages 149 (CORR)

भारत सरकार
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Part file. 5 (1) - 2190-2

विदेश मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

~~TOP SECRET~~

नई दिल्ली
NEW DELHI

फाईल नं०
FILE NO

खण्ड
VOLUME

~~Declassified~~

(अरुण कुमार चटर्जी)
(ARUN KUMAR CHATTERJEE)
संयुक्त सचिव (सी.एन.डी.)
Joint Secretary (CNV)
विदेश मंत्रालय, नई दिल्ली
Ministry of External Affairs
New Delhi

टिप्पणियां/पत्राचार
NOTES/CORRESPONDENCE

विषय
Subject

Press Clippings

S. Chandu Bore Enquiry Commission

पिछले हवाले
Previous Reference

बाद के हवाले
Later Reference

As from May 5, 1958

Notes: pages 1 to 5
CORR: pages 6 to 49

keep

28/12/15
KEEP
NATIONAL ARCHIVES
C. P. A.

Information Service of India

Mr. T. Ishikawa, a resident of Aomori City, accompanied by a person, who was introduced to us as a Buddhist monk, called at the ISI yesterday and reported that a 1700-year-old image of Lord Buddha, made of emeralds, was soon to be sold by its owner to an American multi-millionaire connected with the Rockefeller Foundation, for US.\$ 30 million. Mr. Ishikawa himself had neither seen the image nor did he know its owner. But the monk had seen the image and also knew its owner. According to him, the image showed Lord Buddha with folded hands, was about a feet high and weighed 14,700 carots. It was fixed on a 21" sq. piece of wood.

2. The Buddhist monk further added that the image originally belonged to the late Subhash Chandra Bose, but, after his death, came to be acquired by its present owner. He refused to disclose as to how the latter came to possess the image or what his name or address were. He, however, said that the owner had two houses: one in Tokyo and the other in Aomori, and that the image was at present lying in Tokyo.

3. Both Mr. Ishikawa and the Buddhist monk added that they did not like the idea of an image of Lord Buddha going to the USA for sake of money. On the other hand, they thought that Prime Minister Nehru was anxious that the image should be acquired by the Government of India. They said that they would be very happy to help to help the Govt. of India in acquiring the image if we agreed to pay them 5% of the total amount for which the image was going to be sold, i.e. \$ 1.5 million. They refused to disclose as to how they could accomplish such a remarkable job of getting us an article for \$ 1.5 million when, according to their own statement, someone else was ready to pay \$ 30 million for the same article.

4. The matter was reported to the Counsellor. He said that there were some previous papers also on the subject. A look at the old file showed that a story about the treasures of the late Subhash Bose was told to us in 1958 also. At that time one Keizo Takei, an employee of the Miyoshi Chemical Co., Ltd., Tokyo, informed us that the treasures of the late Bose were deposited in the Mitsui Bank by their present holder, a Mr. Tajima. He also added that the principal item of treasures was an oriental emerald weighing 18,400 carots. The matter was reported to the Government of India in August 1958. They advised that the best course for us would be to take up the matter with the Japanese Government. We could transmit to them the information which we had and ask them for their advice as to how best the matter could be handled. We were also asked to make it clear to the Japanese Govt. that the Govt. of India had no intention of entering upon any protracted civil proceedings in this matter.

5. The matter was taken up with Mr. Iwama of the Gaimusho in December 1958 by our former First Secretary, Mr. Malik. An extract from a note recorded by him after meeting Mr. Iwama is reproduced below:-

"He was rather discouraging saying that information we had received was not specific, that it would be difficult for the Police to undertake investigations without infringing the Human Rights Provisions of the Constitution, etc. He went so far as to suggest that we should engage a private detective. I pointed out that publicity was precisely what it was the interest of both Governments to avoid and that police could find things out with much less danger of publicity than a private investigation. I also said that it would be desirable to give some answer to the various parties which had come to the Embassy with information. Mr. Iwama said he would consult the Legal Affairs Bureau."

There do not seem to have been any further developments in the matter since then.

13.2.61

Mr. Ishikawa & the Buddhist monk may be asked to show to our representatives the image & enable us to judge the value of the same. While the repetition of such an offer gives a reason to imagine that some article of the kind does exist we can not entirely rely on it & take the next step until we see it ourselves.

Let me know
14/1/61

Counsellor

T.S. (ISI)
Counsellor

I suggest that (C) and TS (ISI) may kindly have a working paper and report on the same 14/1

(2)

(2)

Mr. Ishikawa contacted the Embassy today ^{on the telephone}. I told him that we would like to have a look at the wage before ever doing the matter further. At first, he demanded 5% of 30 m.B. even for ~~seeing~~ showing it, but later on said that he would contact us again after consulting some other people.

W.B. Bralla
16.1.

Today Mr. Ishikawa one Mr. Mikami who claimed to be a priest but looked and behaved like a desperate character called on we. They have agreed to come on Friday the 10th February at 1 P.M. here to take Sh. Terath & myself to the place and show us the wage. They were very keen that we should decide about the matter. They also pressed for some key money which the undersigned refused. One so called certificate (copy) was given also their local address near Gchinikan. (Both attached).

W.B. Bralla
82.

Lord Linn
p.x.B
9/2

Counselor:
Mr. Terath

73 (C)

on Friday the 10th February, F.S(C) Sh. Terath & I, accompanied by interpreter, went to a place near Gchinikan. We were escorted there by Mr. Ishikawa & Mr. Mikami and later on ^{were} introduced to three other gentlemen viz. Mr. Tajima (who

(3)

claimed to be the (owner), Mr. Kumouchi (an old man who gave the certificate) and one Mr. Akihara.

Mr. Tajima (a medium sized man of about 50 years) claimed that the said image had been in his possession for over 40 years & that he had purchased it in Singapore. Later on he & others partly contradicted the claim and vaguely associated it with ~~Mr~~ Subash Bose.

Ultimately the image was produced. The image of Buddha was about 9 or 10 inches in height. It seemed to be of emerald though we of course could not testify its value or genuineness. The Buddha head was hollow from inside but was ~~appeared~~ to be fairly heavy.

Mr. Terada & I returned without any commitment & promised further consideration. After discussion with Ambassador & Counsellor, the undersigned informed Mr. Shibata & Mr. Mikami that the Embassy would proceed in the matter only through the Government of Japan.

On 15th February Mr. Terada & I met Mr. Uchida of the Gamusho and requested informally that the matter should be investigated. To this the Gamusho officials agreed.

Today I handed over a copy of the certificate and a copy of the address given by Mr. Hikami to Gaimusho. Later on Mr. Kawai accompanied a plain-clothed detective and pointed out the place near Achiirban where the wife had been shown to us. Mr. Kawai had to be sent to the place ~~near~~ ^{During} near Achiirban because the telephone number given by Mr. Kamouchi was wrong according to Gaimusho.

It should also be mentioned Mr. Uchida and other officials of the Gaimusho mentioned that there are likely to be two difficulties in the matter viz.
1) It will be very difficult to take over the wife from the present ~~one~~ possessor in so far as legal proceedings by the Court of Japan would be necessary.
2) Even if the wife was recovered it would be difficult to prove that the present surrender is illegal and also that the wife in fact did belong to Sree Subash Bose.

In view of the above Ambassador may kindly consider writing to associates of Netaji to ~~go~~ obtain further

evidence in the matter.

(5)

(5)

Ussella
20.2.61

P.S.(e): Py lt
21/2/61
Ambassador.

③ 德積建設 社

十日十二時

⑥

電 2 公 北 記 白

同 電 2 公 北 記 白

ur 13 10/

in Hozumi Ken Sets
Ohoside Den-
Telephone-Telegraph
Office
Sankado Meguro

(COPY)

⑦

To

Whom it may concern this (crystal) I judge with my wide experience.

It is to be a (oriental emerald) I am sure.

Height 21 cm
circumference 37 cm
neck 23.6 cm
Weight 951 monme (3,575 kg)
17,880 carats.

I do not think another one like this existed anywhere in the world.

Martin M. Kamouchi

A diamond dealer of USA

Tokyo address

Phone (44 - 3059)

⑧

日 電 積
星 々 積
廿 公 建
三 北 設
九 筋 内
十
百
十
三
年

Address given by
Mr. Mikami

Mr. Kamouchi

⑨

Tel: (441-8231)

1
3

16th December, 1958

To: Mr. G.J. Malik
First Secretary,
Indian Embassy, Tokyo.

(13)

From: L.D.M. Abeyaratne &
Ichiro Kagabu,
96, Tokuji-cho, Ikegami,
Ohta-ku, Tokyo.

Subject:- Buddha's emerald head illegally possessed
by Japanese national.

Sir,

I send herewith a photo of Buddha's emerald head which originally belonged to the late Mr. Subash Chandra Bose. It is now possessed by Mr. Jusei Tajima, whose career is not clear excepting that he was in the South Seas area during the last war. The fact that he should possess the article is unreasonable. On one occasion he says he has bought it at Singapore, while on the another occasion he says he has bought it from Netaji's Japanese lady. Thus, whether he has got it through a proper channel or not is questionable.

As mentioned in an article "Whereabouts of Japanese diamond" in a magazine "Special issue of Bungei-Shunju 1956.2", matters regarding diamond were taken up at the Diet may be because there are some questions about Netaji's diamond. It is surmized from the article that Mr. Tajima might have illegally obtained the article.

It is justice to recover it from the man who got the emerald head illegally.

In the circumstances I submit this photo to His Excellency the Ambassador hoping that the article in question may be returned to India through diplomatic procedures.

Faithfully yours,
(L.D.M. Ameyertne)
(Ichiro Toshibe)

--

No.1 To try to determine with all our efforts whether
or not the article (oriental emerald, C.18,400,951 momme)
belongs to Chandra Bose.

Others (Star supphire and white dia)

If there are no records in the Embassy, we will do our
best and find evidence to show that the article belongs
to Chandra Bose.

No.2 We will explain to the present holder of the article
that his possession of the article is illegal and try
to have it transferred to the Embassy.

No.3 If the Embassy has any good methods, we will give full
cooperation with you. Without remuneration.

In the case of No.1 & 2, remuneration is needed for the
present holder and others who cooperate.

No.4 Have an appointment to see the present holder.

Names: 1. Tajima 2. Nakamura 3. Kameuchi
 4. Go shu so 5. Ando.

No.5 Those who determined it to be oriental emerald

C.18,400(951 momme) are:

K. Takei, M. Takumi and K. Urabe.

The attached name card reads:

Keizo Takei

Sanji Chemical Industries Co.Ltd.,

Founding Office: 8, 1-chome, Kanda O-machi

Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (Tel. 2545613)

—

WHEREABOUTS OF ONE TRILLION YEN DIAMOND

By Mr. Kohichi Sekoh.

12

A large amount of diamond was procured by Japanese Government from the nation during the last war. According to a testimony at the Diet in those days by an official in charge, the amount of the diamond procured from the nation was about 160,000 carats, which is at present kept at the Bank of Japan. I cannot, however, agree to the figure since there must be about 650,000 carats according to the results of my investigation made when I was parliamentary vice Minister for International Affairs. In this connection, many people were summoned to testify at the Diet after the war. I understand GHQ (General Headquarters) had delicate relation with the diamond issue. Accidentally I came to know they had 50 carats of diamond in their custody. Also, I know a large amount of diamond was found when a plane crashed with Mr. Bose and some Japanese on board. Further, many pieces of diamond had scattered at the crashing site of a Japanese plane at Mr. Mihara.

My prayer is that diamond illegally possessed by certain people will come out to the world and returned to the original owners. I am sure huge amount of concealed diamond will be displayed at show-windows of jewel shops once a law authorizing ownership of diamond by the present owners is promulgated.

*Tel. 391-7925

Mr. Morikawa, Editor of a "very popular" Japanese magazine, NIPPON, (cir:220,000) rang up this morning. He said that, according to the information received by him, an image of Lord Buddha, belonging to the late Subhash Chandra Bose, which was supposed to be made of emeralds, was recently evaluated by a jeweler, and was actually found to have been made of "aqua-marines". He added that if this was correct, then the price of the image could not be Y.3.6 billion as alleged by those possessing it at present, but only about Y.100,000.

2. He would like to know whether we have any information about this matter.

3. 7.1961.

TS (131)

I do not know anything about this. We can however get from Mr. Morikawa whatever information he has. Is the image in India or Japan?

F.S. may also like to see.

J. J. Krami
4/7

7.8.
1.5.1.

This image seems to be the one the history of which is recorded elsewhere. Ambassador is aware of it. This "very popular" magazine, apparently after a sensational story which can be splashed. My view is that we should play it down.

M. H. K.
4/7

And. The circumstances of the image story are such that we can not take any serious notice of the inquiry nor can we claim any knowledge of the value or other details of the image which has been figured as the subject matter of rumors.

K. J. Mahabadi
4.7.61

Mr. Morikawa has been informed

J. J.

7/7

F.S.

TS (131)

M. H. K.
4/7

We have no information for the magazine.

J. J. 6/7

穂積建設:

本社: 青森市

資本金: 2500万円

社長: 田中久

31年 参事院選出

札幌支店 設立

主役神楽

昭和21年

穂積の管内新設

佐々木

441-2313

1) 高橋の経歴の支店

11

(15)

2) 4月13日 青森の支店に
この支店は 今川町に
その支店を知ったか?

3) 高橋の支店の支店

4) 高橋の支店の支店

11月13日

11月...

青森の支店に

支

高橋

高橋 松本

松井 第一

Tricel Matsui

(16)

Handwritten: 17. put up picture 11. 17/03/61

(17)

Re: Buddhist Image in emerald allegedly possessed formerly
by the late Subhas Chandra Bose.

As a result of the talks with Mr. Hiroshi Ohi, Gaimusho secretary attached to the Southwest Asian Section, and Mr. Yoshitaka Ohta, police inspector of the Metropolitan Police Board at the Gaimusho today (March 22, 1961), the following information as to the persons connected with this matter was ~~given~~ made known.

The place where our previous meeting took place (to see the image) is a dormitory of the Hozumi Kensetsu (construction) company which head office is located in Aomori city. The company is capitalized at ¥25,000,000. The president of the company Mr. Yoshitaka Hozumi who directly did not come in the picture of this matter ran ~~for~~ in the Upper House election in 1955 on the Socialist ticket but failed to be elected.

Mr. Kamouchi (~~Mitsuo Kamouchi~~) who acted as an interpreter for Mr. Tajima, alleged owner of the image, may be Mr. Mitsuo Kamouchi who lives at the place of the meeting. He is a legal adviser to Mr. Hozumi.

Police at this stage was unable to check identities of other persons such as Mr. Akahira, Mr. Mikami etc.

The police authorities are unable to investigate further unless there is any criminal suspicion as to the persons involved. Because of this reason, it was a view of the police authorities that the Embassy may again try to make an occasion to see the image to check whether it is a real emerald one or an imitation. If it proves to be an imitation, then police would start investigation on criminal charges. For this checking of the image, the police authorities are prepared to provide their ~~jewelry~~ jewelry expert who may accompany Embassy people for the checking covering his identity. ~~Some~~

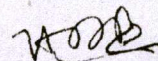
March 20, 1961.

18

Dear Mr. Chi,

With reference to this morning's telephone conversation, we understand that the appropriate authorities have been able to establish contacts with the people connected with the image of Lord Buddha. Regarding your suggestion that a reputed jeweller could also assist in the matter and also your suggestion that Mr. Kawai of our Embassy should discuss the matter with some officials, we are very happy to agree to the same and shall be grateful if we are acquainted with further progress in the matter.

Yours sincerely,



(H. Bhalla)

Mr. Hinoshi Chi,
South West Asia Section,
Gaimusho, Tokyo.

In order to make ~~an~~ a contact with the owner Mr. Tajima, the police authorities suggested that a contact may be made to Mr. Kamouchi on the telephone 441-2312, one of the telephone numbers given by Mr. Kamouchi ^{other} previously. The/telephone number proved to be incorrect.

On and when the appointment has ben made for re-checking of the image, the police authorities asked to be informed ^{in advance} so that the expert jeweler from them may be sent together.

In the meantime police wanted to know from the Embassy:

- (1) ^{Assuming} the image in question is believed to be a property of Mr. Chandra Bose, to what extent the tracing thereof by the Indian Government could be produced; or ^{amount to} ~~the~~ knowledge ^{regarding} the object held by the Indian Government or the Embassy; ^{and when} where it was lost or stolen etc.
- (2) Do the Embassy authorities or Indian Government have any prove to ^{claim} ~~verify~~ the image in question as the authentic treasure. ~~possessed by Mr. Chandra Bose~~
- (3) If the image prove to be an authentic one, is the Embassy ~~mind~~ or Government prepared to ~~verify~~ claim ~~on~~ it ~~that~~ or is prepared to buy it back?

Name of the jewelry expert: Eiichi Matsui

W. Kawan
27/3/61

Mr. Hiroshi Ohi (Mr. Gaimusho)
大井 浩 南西212号

Mr. Yoshitake Ohta
太田 義孝 警視庁警部
公安課外務課
581-4311
(15) 4279

My dear

VF/N
Please refer to the correspondence resting with Rauf's letter No. F.5(1)NGO-I of 5th December, 1952, about Subhas Bose's treasure.

2. Recently a Japanese gentleman named ~~Mr.~~ Keizo Takei now employed by the Miyoshi Chemical Co. Ltd. whose office is at 8,1-chome, Tamachi, Kanda, Chiyoda-ky, Tokyo has been coming to the Embassy. He claims that he has knowledge of the whereabouts of Subhas Bose's treasure which he can identify because he himself did liaison work with the INA during the war having, inter alia, trained Indian cadets in the INA.

3. According to him the principal item of jewellery is ^{an} Oriental emerald weighing 18,400 carats. There are also star sapphires, white diamonds and other valuables. These valuables are now allegedly deposited in the Mitsui Bank by the present holder, a Mr. Tajima. Mr. Takei offers to use his efforts to try to determine if the articles belonged to Subhas^{Chandra} Bose and to persuade the present holder that his possession of these valuables is illegal and he should transfer them to the Embassy. Mr. Takei requests our cooperation and does not ask for any remunerations.

4. Personally ^{we} find it difficult to accept Mr. Takei's story. It seems incredible that an emerald of 18,400 carats should exist at all and, if it exists, should not be ^{an} the object of interest to all collectors, museums, and jewellers in the world. Similarly it is unlikely that Mr. Takei performed liaison duties with the INA because he speaks no language other than Japanese. However, as he is very insistent and has left a written statement in Japanese with us we feel that we should mention

(21)

the matter to you in view of the interest which the Prime Minister himself took in this subject in 1951. At that time, I understand, the matter was dropped because it was considered that the publicity which might arise from any investigation would ~~outweigh the~~ ^{be set off by the value of the} funds ~~which are~~ ^{likely to be} salvaged. Now that we are offered ~~what appears to be a clue in the trail~~ ^{some specific details}, I wonder if you would like ~~us~~ ^{me} to pursue it, & indicate how we should proceed ^{with the matter}.

Yours sincerely,

(C. S. Jha)

Shri B.K. Acharya,
Joint Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.

*X. I might add that as the
information furnished to us by Mr. Takeri
concerns a Japanese national & a Japanese
bank, the Japanese authorities might be
able to get some further information.*

No. PS/56/NEC

Dated the 29th May, 1956

22

Dear Mr. Sen,

Our Committee has seen the two letters from Dar (Nos. F5(1)NGO-I, dated the 25th and 26th of May 1956), regarding the evidence in Formosa. It is noted that the Government of India are not in favour of the Committee paying a visit to Formosa. It is also noted that the authorities in Formosa are not willing to allow the evidence of Formosan witnesses to be recorded outside that Island. In the circumstances, the Committee has no option but to agree to the only method by which evidence of Formosan witnesses is likely to be obtained. Arrangements may please be made to have the statements of Formosan witnesses recorded, as suggested, by the British Consul General and make them available to the Committee either during their return to India, Care of the Ministry of External Affairs. In this connection, it is suggested that a hint, if there is no objection, may be given to the British Consul in Formosa that while a Chinese official might be present during examination of Formosan witnesses by the Consul, the latter would no doubt make sure that the witnesses speak their mind openly. It would be appreciated if 4 copies of the statement in English, duly authenticated by the British Consul, are forwarded to this Committee.

We have been asked to supply Chinese names in full of the Formosan witnesses. We have only got the names through non-Chinese sources and can give them as we have received. The names of the Formosan witnesses together with some indication of the points on which they might give evidence, are given in the attached note.

As for the entries in the hospital and crematorium registers, it is a matter of convenience whether they are obtained through the British Consul or

the Japanese Ambassador in Formosa. The Committee would have no objection if the latter channel is used.

The papers concerned are three :-

1. The doctor's report regarding the alleged death of Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose at Nanmon Military Hospital Taihoku (Taipeh) on or about the 18th August, 1945.
2. The police report on the same subject.
3. The cremation permit issued by the Bureau of Health and Hygiene, Taihoku (Taipeh) on or about the 20th of August, 1945.

It may please be ascertained whether such records are available. If they are, it is requested that relevant extracts made from them on proper authentication and four copies of the same together with certified English translations may kindly be made available to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/- SHAH NAWAZ KHAN

Shri. B.R. Sen,
Ambassador for India in Japan,
Tokyo.

Encl:1.

The Government of India have appointed a Committee to enquire into the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, with the following terms of reference:-

" To enquire into and to report to the Government of India on the circumstances concerning the departure of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Bangkok about the 16th August 1945, his alleged death as a result of an aircraft accident and subsequent developments connected therewith."

Some witnesses have deposed to the Committee that Mr. Bose met with an air accident at Taihoku (Taipeh) airfield on the 18th August, 1945, and that he was admitted to the Nanmon Military Hospital where he is said to have expired the same night. It is said that his body was cremated at Taihoku City crematorium on the 20th August. There are some witnesses in Formosa who may be able to give evidence on the following points. Their names as obtained from Indian sources are given below and may not be wholly accurate. It is also regretted that their present addresses are not known to the Committee. In tracing these witnesses, it might be of advantage to contact the following gentlemen noted* on the margin*

*Mr. Huang,
Supdt. of Police,
Taipeh

Mr. S.P. Chun, Secy.
to the Commissioner
of Police, Formosa.

Mr. Chung Yung-kai,
Office of the Governor
General of Formosa.

1. Nurse Tsan Pi Sha (nurse in Nanmon Military Hospital, Taihoku (Taipeh) in August, 1945.

This witness might testify regarding the entry of Mr. Bose and his Adjutant, Col. Habibur Rehman, into the Nanmon Military Hospital, their treatment there, the last hours of Mr. Bose, his death, keeping the body in the hospital and its removal later on.

2. Miss Chu Chow Tse, nurse Nanmon Military Hospital.

This witness is said to have been on leave during that time but might have heard of the story.

3. Dr. Kan King-yen, Present, Bureau of Health of Hygiene, Taihoku (Taipeh) in August 1945.

This witness might give evidence regarding maintenance of record in the Bureau, particularly of the certificate for the alleged cremation of Mr. Bose's body.

- 4 and 5. Mr. Li Chin Kui and Mr. Tan Chi Ch, Clerks in the Bureau of Health and Hygiene, Taihoku (Taipeh) in August 1945.

These witnesses are said to have issued a certificate of cremation in respect of the body of Mr. Bose after reading the relevant medical reports from Nanmon Military Hospital and Police report regarding the death. They are also said to have seen the body which was identified by some Japanese officer. These witnesses might testify regarding the certificates, namely, the doctor's certificate and cremation certificate. If there be any wrong entries in any one or all the certificates, they might be able to give reasons for the same.

6. Mr. Chu Tsung, In Charge, Taihoku City Government Crematorium.

This witness may be able to testify as to who brought the body of Mr. Bose to the crematorium, who identified it, how was the actual burning conducted, and who took delivery of the ashes.

PTI 17 (ENQUIRY MISSION)

NEW DELHI, JANUARY 30 (PTI)--- A THREE-MEMBER COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO ENQUIRE INTO CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE REPORTED DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, LEADER OF INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WILL LEAVE FOR TOKYO AFTER MARCH FIFTEENTH, IT WAS LEARNT HERE TODAY.

SHAH NAHAZ KHAN, CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF NETAJI IN I N A AND AT PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO RAILWAY MINISTER IN NEHRU CABINET, HEADS THE MISSION THE OTHER TWO MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE A REPRESENTATIVE OF WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT AND A MEMBER OF BOSE'S FAMILY.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAVE PROMISED TO GIVE ALL HELP FOR HOLDING OF THIS ENQUIRY.

ALTHOUGH ACCORDING TO REPORTS RECEIVED BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT SUBHAS BOSE WAS KILLED IN AN AIRCRASH IN TAIWAN IN 1945 CLAIMS HAVE BEEN APPEARING IN INDIAN PRESS FROM TIME TO TIME THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE AND WOULD SHORTLY MAKE HIS APPEARANCE.

....MF 2122.....

(27)
APRIL 4, 1956.

PTI 1 (ENQUIRY COMMITTEE)

NEW DELHI, APRIL 3 (PTI)--- A COMMITTEE APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO ENQUIRE INTO NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE'S DEATH WILL BEGIN EXAMINING WITNESSES FROM TOMORROW.

AT ITS SITTING HERE TOMORROW THE COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO HEAR EVIDENCE FROM DEVNATH DAS WHO WAS ADVISER TO NETAJI BOSE IN AZAD HIND PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT AND CAPTAIN GULZAR SINGH WHO WAS MINISTER IN THAT GOVERNMENT.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT COLONEL HARIBUR RAHMAN WHO IS STATED TO HAVE BEEN WITH NETAJI AT THE TIME OF THE CRASH OF THE PLANE CARRYING HIM AND IS NOW SERVING IN PAKISTAN GOVERNMENT POLITICAL SERVICE IS BEING REQUESTED TO TENDER EVIDENCE BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

AFTER CONCLUDING ITS WORK HERE THE COMMITTEE WILL GO TO TOKYO TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS THERE.

THE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IS INDIA'S MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT AND RAILWAYS WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, SURFESH CHANDRA BOSE, BROTHER OF SUBHAS BOSE AND S MAITRA REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT OF BOSE'S HOME PROVINCE OF WEST BENGAL.

SH/H NAWAZ KHAN WAS MAJOR GENERAL IN PARTIAL INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY FOUNDED BY BOSE.

...ME 3700.....

- (28)
1. Mr. S.A. Ayer.
 2. Col. Habib-ur-Rahman.
 3. Sh. Rama Murthy.
 4. Sh. Ananda Mohan Sahay.
 5. Mr. Harin Shah
Special Representative
"Bharat" Bombay.
 6. Rev. M. Dharmeswar,
Nippenzen Myohoji,
Hanaokayama,
Kumamoto, Japan.
-

1. Mr. Fukuoka, Chief of the Domei News Agency for the
East Asia Region.
2. Rear Admiral Chuda Japanese Navy.
3. Col Tadao Sakai.
4. Col Nonogaki, Japanese Air Force.
5. Capt. Arai, Japanese Army.
6. Yoshiie Nakamura, 3051, Kawatebatake, Yatsurugi-Mura,
Toba-Gun, Gifu Prefecture. (Electric Railway Company)
7. Mr. Kohno.
8. 2/Lt. Hayashida Tsuneo, Haruyoshi-nibancho, Fukuoka City.
9. Col. Morio Takakura
10. Lt General Isoda.
11. Col. Braiman.
12. Major Kakakura. --- Lt. Col. Takakura.
13. Lt. Col. Iwaichi Fujiwara- 728 Sakai Musashino-shi Tokyo to.
14. Lt. Col. Nonogaki.
15. Major Yoshio Okida----Osaka.
16. Ex-Corporal Noda (hailing from Nagano Pref.), commandant
of the Matsuyama Airfield in Formosa.
17. Kazuo Mitsui.
18. Ex - Corporal Shibata (hailing from Kumamoto pref.)
19. Major Nakamiya .
20. Major Kinoshita
21. Major Shibuya.

DECEMBER 3, 1955

25

PTI 13 (INQUIRY)

NEW DELHI, DEC. 3 (PTI)—INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO SEND THREE PERSONS TO JAPAN TO INVESTIGATE INTO CIRCUMSTANCE RELATING TO THE DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA ROSE.

PRIME MINISTER NEHRU TOLD LOK SABHA (LOWER HOUSE OF INDIAN PARLIAMENT) DURING QUESTION TIME TODAY JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND "THEY HAVE PROMISED US FULL COOPERATION IN INQUIRY".

MR NEHRU SAID ONE OF THREE PERSONS WOULD BE REPRESENTATIVE OF WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR TO DISCLOSE AT PRESENT NAMES OF OTHER TWO PERSONS "AS WE HAVE NOT OBTAINED THEIR PERMISSION".

MINISTER WAS REPLYING TO QUESTION TABLED BY SIX MEMBERS. THEY ASKED IF AS A FACT THE GOVERNMENT WERE CONSIDERING QUESTION OF SETTING UP A COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA ROSE.

NEHRU ASKED WHETHER THREE PERSONS WOULD BE REQUESTED TO VISIT FORMOSA WHERE NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA ROSE WAS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT IN THE AIRFIELD.

"SAID "TO BEGIN WITH THERE WERE VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN A WAY. YOU CANNOT PLACE WITHOUT COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT OF THAT PLACE. "THERE WOULD BE NO PURPOSE IN A TEAM VISITING FORMOSA BECAUSE ALL SO CALLED EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES ARE LIKELY TO BE IN JAPAN IF THEY SURVIVE".

IT WAS MILITARY AIRFIELD AND ALL JAPANESE WERE SENT AWAY FROM FORMOSA LONG AGO. THEREFORE ALL PERSONS WHO COULD BE APPROACHED WERE REALLY IN JAPAN. MERELY SEEING AIRFIELD WOULD NOT GET MUCH HELP, NEHRU SAID.

...SH 1900...

PTI 18 (ADD INQUIRY)

30

DELHI, DEC. 3 (PTI)---A MEMBER ASKED ; HAS OUR EMBASSY IN TOKYO BEEN ASKED TO FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY CONTACT JAPANESE GOVERNMENT AS TO WHETHER THEY WILL ASSOCIATE THEMSELVES WITH THIS COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY SO AS TO HAVE INQUIRY BY AN INDO-JAPANESE COMMISSION.

MR. NEHRU: JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN CONSULTED AND THEY HAVE PROMISED FULL COOPERATION IN INQUIRY.

...SH 2050...

PRESSTrust OF INDIA

DECEMBER 4, 1955.

31

PTI 2 (SECOND ADD INQUIRY --SEE PTI 18 OF YESTERDAY)

CALCUTTA, DECEMBER 3 (PTI)--- IT WAS LEARNED IN CALCUTTA LATER THAT THE THREE-MEMBER MISSION TO TOKYO WOULD BE LED BY SHAH NAZIM KHAN, ONE OF ~~THE~~ CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE IN AZAD HIND FOUJ (INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY).

SHAH NAZIM KHAN WHO WAS MAJOR GENERAL IN INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY IS PRESENTLY PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS IN NEHRU CABINET.

THE MISSION'S TWO OTHER MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO BE SURESH CHANDRA BOSE, AN ELDER BROTHER OF NETAJI BOSE AND AN OFFICIAL TO BE NOMINATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, HOME PROVINCE OF BOSE.

...T 2055.....

PTI 5 (ASSISTANCE TO NEPAL'S FIVE YEAR PLAN)

32

NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 3 (PTI)--- THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COULD CONTRIBUTE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPAL'S FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS UNDER CONSIDERATION OF GOVERNMENT, PRIME MINISTER NEHRU TOLD LOK SABHA TODAY.

IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT TO FORSEE THAT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S ASSISTANCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF NEPAL WOULD BE SUBSTANTIAL, HE ADDED.

MR NEHRU SAID THAT NEPALESE DELEGATION TO COLOMBO PLANT CONFERENCE RECENTLY HELD AT SINGAPORE HAD PUT FORTH OUTLINE OF ITS COUNTRY'S FIVE YEAR PLAN.

...MF 935.....

PTI 13.
(ROUNDUP ENQUIRY)

PTI NEW DELHI, DECEMBER 4 (PTI)--- SHAH NAZIM KHAN, A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF NETAJI ^{OFFICIAL} SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE IN INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY, IS LIKELY TO LEAD A THREE-MAN/MISSION TO JAPAN TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF NETAJI'S DEATH.

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAS PROMISED FULL COOPERATION TO THE ~~INQUIRY MISSION~~ INDIAN ENQUIRY MISSION.

ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE INDIAN MISSION IS LIKELY TO BE SURESH CHANDRA BOSE, AN ELDER BROTHER OF NETAJI. THE THIRD MEMBER IS LIKELY TO BE AN OFFICIAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL.

INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NEHRU DURING QUESTION TIME IN PARLIAMENT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY THAT INDIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED TO SEND THREE PERSONS TO JAPAN TO INVESTIGATE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE DEATH OF NETAJI.

PRIME MINISTER NEHRU SAID JAPANESE GOVERNMENT HAD BEEN CONSULTED AND " THEY HAVE PROMISED US FULL COOPERATION IN THE INQUIRY".

DURING QUESTION TIME ONE MEMBER ASKED WHETHER THREE PERSONS WOULD BE REQUESTED TO VISIT FORMOSA WHERE NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WAS INVOLVED IN ACCIDENT IN AIRCRASH. MR NEHRU SAID " TO BEGIN WITH THERE WERE VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY. YOU CANNOT VISIT A PLACE WITHOUT THE COOPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT PLACE. THERE WOULD ALSO NOT BE MUCH PURPOSE IN THE TEAM VISITING FORMOSA BECAUSE ALL SO-CALLED EVIDENCE AND WITNESSES ARE LIKELY TO BE IN JAPAN IF THEY SURVIVE".

ANOTHER MEMBER ASKED "HAS THE ATTENTION OF PRIME MINISTER BEEN DRAWN TO A PHOTOGRAPH PUBLISHED IN A SECTION OF BENGAL PRESS SOME TWO MONTHS AGO REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN PEKING ON MAY 2 AND ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED BY WORKERS PRESS OF PEKING AND WHETHER THE PERSON WHO BEARS SLIGHT RESEMBLANCE TO NETAJI IN THE PHOTOGRAPHS WAS A MERE COINCIDENCE AND WHETHER THIS PHOTOGRAPH WILL BE PLACED BEFORE THIS COURT OF INQUIRY?".

MR NEHRU REPLIED " I HAVE SEEN THAT PHOTOGRAPH REPRODUCED IN THE PRESS. PERSONALLY I DO NOT ATTACH MUCH IMPORTANCE TO IT--TO HAVE POSSIBLE RESEMBLANCE. THERE ARE SO MUCH POSSIBLE VAGUE RESEMBLANCES IN SUCH MATTERS. I DO NOT THINK IT IS A MATTER WHICH IS OF SERIOUS CONSEQUENCE."ET 1.07.....

MARCH 8, 1956

PTI 7 (NETAJI BOS-E)

(34)

NEWDELHI MARCH 7 (PTI)--- A MADRAS STATE LEADER WHO WAS RECENTLY
HAVE CLAIMED THAT HE HAD BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE
THE LAST SEVEN YEARS HAS BEEN INVITED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY
SET UP BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TO INVESTIGATE "MYSTERY" OF BOSE'S DEATH.

M I THEVAR, A MEMBER OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF MADRAS, WAS REPORTED
TO HAVE SAID IN A STATEMENT FROM CALCUTTA A FORTNIGHT AGO THAT HE HAD ONLY RECENTLY
GONE TO BURMA TO RENEW HIS CONTACTS WITH BOSE, LEADER OF VARIOUS INDIAN NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND THAT BOSE AT PRESENT HAD HIS HEADQUARTERS IN CHINESE PROVINCE OF YUNNAN
AND HAD ALSO SAID THAT NETAJI WAS LEADING A SECTION OF "ASIAN LIBERATION ARMY"
ON THE BORDERS OF ASSAM AND THAT HE WAS INVOLVED WITH FULL AUTHORITY IN THE
MATTER.

SHAH NAFAZ KHAN PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND TRANSPORT
AND CHAIRMAN OF ENQUIRY COMMITTEE, HAS WRITTEN TO MR THEVAR INVITING HIM TO
APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE.

SHAH NAFAZ KHAN, EX-MAJOR GENERAL IN NATIONAL ARMY AND CLOSE ASSOCIATE
OF BOSE, IN A STATEMENT HERE TODAY SAID WHILE HE DID NOT WISH TO SAY IN
A STATEMENT AT THIS STAGE HE FAILED TO UNDERSTAND WHY OF ALL THE PEOPLE
MR THEVAR SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT BY NETAJI FOR KEEPING.

CONTACT WITH HIM "THIS IS ALL THE MORE ASTONISHING", HE ADDED, "IN THE
FACT THAT NETAJI IS ALLEGED TO BE ON THE BORDERS OF ASSAM FROM WHERE IT
IS MUCH EASIER FOR HIM TO CONTACT HIS NUMEROUS ADMIRERS IN ASSAM AND WEST BENGAL."

SHAH NAFAZ KHAN IS SHORTLY LEADING A THREE-MEMBER OFFICIAL ENQUIRY DELEGATION
TO TOKYO TO MAKE DETAILED ENQUIRIES ON THE SUBJECT OF BOSE'S DEATH.

.....H K 1-30.....

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA

MARCH 8, 1956.

(3)

PTI 1 (BHONSLE)

POONA (BOMBAY STATE), MARCH 7 (PTI)--- J.K. BHONSLE, CHIEF OF STAFF IN SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE'S WARTIME INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY, TOLD PRESS TRUST OF INDIA IN AN INTERVIEW HERE TODAY THAT ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ HE WAS CONVINCED THAT BOSE WAS DEAD.

MR BHONSLE, FORMER MAJOR GENERAL IN I.N.A. AND AT PRESENT DEPUTY MINISTER FOR REHABILITATION IN INDIAN GOVERNMENT, ADDED " WE SHOULD HAVE LIKED NATAJI TO BE ALIVE BUT UNFORTUNATELY HE IS DEAD".

MR BHONSLE MADE THE REMARK WHEN HIS ATTENTION WAS DRAWN TO THEVARS STATEMENT THAT BOSE WAS STILL ALIVE. *N*

...MF 9730...

PTI 15 (CHANDRA BOSE)

NEW DELHI, MARCH 12 (PTI)--- INDIAN PRIME MINISTER NEHRU DISCOUNTED IN RAJYA SABHA (UPPER HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT) TODAY REPORTS THAT NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WAS LIVING IN SIKIANG PROVINCE OF CHINA ON THE BORDER OF INDIAN STATE OF ASSAM.

MR NEHRU WHO WAS REPLYING TO A QUESTION IN THE HOUSE SAID GOVERNMENT HAD SEEN A PRESS REPORT OF THE STATEMENT BY M L THEVAR, A MEMBER OF MADRAS STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, CLAIMING THAT BOSE WAS ALIVE AND STAYING IN SIKIANG AND THAT HE (THEVAR) HAD RECENTLY MET HIM.

"ALL EVIDENCES THAT GOVERNMENT COLLECTED IN THE PAST FEW YEARS CONVINCED THEM OF THE DEATH OF NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE", MR NEHRU ADDED.

"THERE IS, THEREFORE, IN THEIR OPINION NO QUESTION OF HIS LIVING IN SIKIANG PROVINCE OF CHINA. HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT HAVE APPOINTED A COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF NETAJI'S DEATH. THE COMMITTEE WILL PROCEED TO JAPAN FOR THE PURPOSE SOON".

MR NEHRU WAS REFERRING TO THE COMMITTEE OF THREE MEMBERS APPOINTED BY GOVERNMENT RECENTLY UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF SHAH NAFAZ KHAN, A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF BOSE IN WARTIME AZAD HIND FOUZ (INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY). SHAH NAFAZ KHAN AT PRESENT PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO RAILWAY AND TRANSPORT MINISTER OF INDIA WAS MAJOR GENERAL IN I N A.

THE COMMITTEE WHICH ALSO INCLUDES A MEMBER OF BOSE'S FAMILY IS EXPECTED TO LEAVE FOR JAPAN SHORTLY TO ENQUIRE INTO THE FACTS OF BOSE'S DEATH.

...MF 192.....

PTI 20 (DUTT-MAZUMDAR)

37

KALCUTTA, DECEMBER 4 (PTI)--- NIMARENDRA DUTT-MAZUMDAR, FORMER MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL GOVERNMENT, CLAIMED TODAY THERE WAS A PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE TO PROVE THAT SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE BELIEVED TO HAVE DIED IN A PLANE CRASH IN JAPAN WAS STILL ALIVE.

THIS CLAIM CAME ON THE HEELS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF A THREE-MAN COMMISSION HEADED BY SHAH NAJAZ, ONE OF CLOSE ASSOCIATES OF NETAJI BOSE IN AZAD HIND FOIJ (INDIAN NATIONAL ARMY) AND WHO WAS MAJOR GENERAL IN I N A, WAS BEING SENT TO JAPAN TO INVESTIGATE INTO THE CIRCUMSTANCES RELATING TO THE DEATH OF BOSE.

DUTT-MAZUMDAR WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT BUT SAID GOVERNMENT'S ASSUMPTION OF THE DEATH AS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION SEEMED TO BE GUIDED BY BIAS AND PREDILECTION IN SUPPORT OF CONCLUSION ALREADY PREACHED. THIS WOULD BE STRANGE APPROACH.

HE SAID WHAT WAS REALLY CALLED FOR WAS COMPETENT FACTFINDING COMMISSION COMPOSED OF MEN NOT ONLY ENJOYING CONFIDENCE OF GENERAL PUBLIC BUT ALSO EXPERIENCED IN DELICATE TASK OF INVESTIGATIONS TO COLLECT AND ANALYSE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCE WITH CRITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC MEANS. FULFILMENT OF SUCH TASK CALLED FOR MUCH MORE THAN QUALITIES OF WISE SOLDIER OR OF AFFECTIONATE BROTHER HE ADDED.

(THE THREE-MAN COMMISSION IS EXPECTED TO INCLUDE SURESH CHANDRA BOSE, ELDER BROTHER OF NETAJI BOSE AND AN OFFICIAL TO BE NOMINATED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, HOME PROVINCE OF NETAJI BOSE.

DUTT-MAZUMDAR SUGGESTED A JURIST BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INQUIRY COMMISSION.

...MF 2122.....

VISITOR'S PASS

L.D.M. ABAYERATNE

NAME L. G. M. Alynaton

1212 Ogawadhinden, 1 ditatanaqun

FIRM *Hodaira Wadi Tokyo*

TO SEE Agua de los

BUSINESS

利部一郎

I. Kadavu

東京都大田區池上穗持町九六

No. 1 To try to determine with all our efforts whether
or not the article (oriental emerald, C. 18,400,
951 momme) belongs to Chandra Bose.

Others (Star supphire and white dia)

If there are no records in the Embassy, we will do
our best and find evidence to show that the article
belongs to Chandra Bose.

No. 2 We will explain to the present holder of the
article that his possession of the article is
illegal and try to have it transferred to the
Embassy.

No. 3 If the Embassy has any good methods, we will give
full cooperation with you. without remuneration.
In the case of No. 1 & 2, remuneration is needed
for the present holder and others who cooperate.

No. 4. Have an appointment to see the present holder.

Names: 1. Tajima 2. Nakamura 3. Kameuchi
4. Go shu so 5. Ando

No. 5 Those who determined it to be oriental emerald
C. 18,400 (951 momme) are:
K. Takei, M. Takumi and K. Urabe.

The attached name card reads:

Keizo Takei

Sanji Chemical Industries Co., Ltd.,

Founding office: 8, 1 chome, Kanda O-machi,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (Tel.) (25) 5613

Miyoshi Chemical Co. Ltd.
Establishment Office
8, 1-chome, Ta-
mach, Kanda,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo. Tel (25) 5613

Mr. Keizo Takei
武井敬三



~~SECRET~~

No.FS/740

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI.

3rd July 1956.

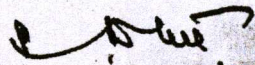
My dear Sen,

Thank you for your letter No.Amb/PS-II/56 of June 26.

We are glad to know that the Government of Japan extended every possible assistance to the Enquiry Committee. Shri Suresh Bose has throughout proved difficult to deal with. I was therefore glad to hear from Maitra yesterday that better sense seems to be dawning on him and there is a chance of his agreeing to a unanimous report.

We are very happy to hear many complimentary references by the members of the Committee to the assistance which they received from your Embassy, in particular from Dar and yourself.

Yours sincerely,


(S.Dutt)
Foreign Secretary.

Shri B.R.Sen,
Ambassador of India,
Tokyo.

~~SECRET~~

June 26, 1956

(42)

My dear Dutt,

I write in reply to your D.O.No. F.S/674 dated June 19 about the work of the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee in Japan.

Wny
2. The arrival of the Committee had been eagerly awaited and the Japanese Government had made all necessary preparations. The Committee was, therefore, able to start their work immediately on their arrival. I accompanied them when they made their first formal call on Foreign Minister Shigemitsu. When Subhas Bose visited Japan for the first time Shigemitsu was Foreign Minister. In moving terms Shigemitsu spoke of his associations with Subhas Bose. He told me last year that soon after he came out of the Sugamo Prison after serving his term as a War criminal he was asked to lead a Japanese Goodwill Mission to India to hand over Subhas Bose's ashes now preserved in the Renkoji Temple in Tokyo.

3. The Committee worked very hard; the pace was set by Shah Nawaz Khan himself. Shah Nawaz Khan showed himself a fine gentleman, full of courtesy, conscientious and hard-working, honest and straight-forward. In fact, it is his honesty and straight-forwardness which brought him trouble. Though I had cautioned Shah Nawaz against making any loose statements to the Press and had in fact asked him to channel all statements through our Information Officer, unfortunately, one day, at the early stage of the enquiry, a Press reporter walked into Shah Nawaz's room and took him off his guard. At that time Shah Nawaz was alone. Shah Nawaz made a statement which was altogether unfortunate. In explaining why the Committee had come so many years after the event he said that this was because Japan was under occupation by the U.S.A. and there might have been American interference and, besides, the Japanese people might have been embarrassed. On the 'missing treasure' he said that he was definitely of the opinion that there was no such treasure and all that there was is now stored in our National Museum in Delhi. The latter part of this statement roused the ire of those local Indian associates of Subhas Bose who had long made the 'missing treasure' a subject of acrimonious controversy and also a means for self-publicity. Two persons who took the lead in this agitation were A.M. Nair, now owner of a small Indian restaurant, and Miglani, who serves in the editorial board of the Asahi Evening News, an important daily paper in Japan. These two persons obtained the good offices of the local P.T.I. representative, Tandon, who was himself nursing a grievance against the Committee for not giving him any special treatment. Tandon sent a despatch which was widely published in the Indian Press, in which the demand of these two individuals for replacement of Shah Nawaz Khan as Chairman was put forward. Later, this matter was raised in Parliament to which P.M. gave an effective reply.

4. When I saw this statement of Shah Nawaz in the local Press I immediately sent for him and told him that if the Committee's work was to be carried on smoothly

(43)

such a mistake should not happen again. I am glad to say that Shah Nawaz Khan did not repeat the mistake during his stay here. I also warned the Indian community, including Nair and Miglani, at the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Association on May 12 that the Committee must have the fullest support and cooperation of all Indian nationals being a Committee appointed by our own Government. These two individuals, however, remained hostile and refused to appear before the Committee though invited to do so.

5. As regards the attitude of Suresh Chandra Bose, about which you wrote to me, I am afraid he was a problem throughout. As Chairman, Shah Nawaz could exercise little control over him. During the examination of witnesses, Bose often showed bad temper, both to Shah Nawaz and to Maitra and, sometimes, even to witnesses. Shah Nawaz spoke to me in high praise of Maitra's patience and self-control in the face of Bose's provocations. Shah Nawaz himself showed no less patience and self-control in dealing with him. Bose appeared to me to be not quite all there. Some of his actions were strange. For instance, without telling Shah Nawaz or Maitra, he arranged to pay a call on the widow of General Tojo who must have been known to him to have taken an active part in the last death anniversary celebration held in Renkoji Temple for Subhas Bose. On another occasion, Bose slipped away to visit the Renkoji Temple and see the ashes for himself. Before he left Tokyo he distributed copies of Subhas Bose's photographs to many Japanese associates of Subhas Bose who had testified before the Committee to his death. These actions seem inconsistent with the belief to which he is reported to have given expression here that Subhas Bose is not dead and will re-appear at the proper time.

(later on

6. Once or twice I tried to sound Suresh Chandra Bose about his general trend of thinking but he always avoided a frank discussion with me. Finally I decided to let him alone as I was afraid that any direct approach by me on the subject might give him a handle to use against his colleagues and against Government/in case he found his recommendations unacceptable to them. It is easy to be wise after the event. But, in retrospect, his selection as a member of the Committee appears to have been a mistake. Whether or not any other member of the Bose family could have stood up to the pressures, both hidden and open, which are being exercised by the other members of the family and also by some of the so-called followers of Subhas Bose in Calcutta, it is however difficult to say.

7. I enclose a note by A.K.Dar, First Secretary, who kept in touch with the Committee throughout their stay in Japan.

Yours sincerely,

(B.R. Sen)

Shri S. Dutt,
Foreign Secretary,
Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.



CONFIDENTIAL

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
NEW DELHI.

D.O.No. FS/674

(44)

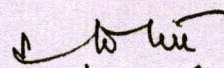
June 19, 1956.

My dear Sen,

Shri Shah Nawaz Khan had a talk yesterday afternoon with the Prime Minister about the work of his Committee in Japan. Earlier he had a talk also with me on the same subject. He was full of praise for the co-operation which you and the Embassy had extended to his Committee in Tokyo. At the same time he complained of the rather extraordinary attitude throughout adopted by Shri Suresh Chandra Bose. Shri Bose, according to Shri Shah Nawaz Khan, was generally non-cooperative and gave the impression that the other two members of the Committee had made up their minds that Netaji was dead and it was his duty to expose them and reveal the truth. On the other hand, the Japanese Government are said to have been most co-operative. They placed all the evidence that was available in Japan at the disposal of the Committee.

2. The Prime Minister would like me to find out from you how the Committee functioned generally in Tokyo and to what extent they received co-operation from the Government and the people of Japan. You might also let us have, for our personal information, your own appreciation of Shri Bose's attitude.

Yours sincerely,


(S. Dutt)

Shri B.R. Sen,
Ambassador of India,
TOKYO

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this may 9 (5)

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Hed
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COPY.

45

41400 TOKYO 9/5 TWO OLD INDIAN RESIDENTS JAPAN ETCONNECTED INDIAN INDEPENDENCE
MOVEMENT JAPANWISE TODAY DEMANDED RECALL SHAHNAVAZ KHAN CHAIRMAN BOSE COMMISSION
AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY QUOTE SUITABLE PERSONALITY UNQUOTE PARA INDIANS DEMAND
MADE STATEMENTWISE PRESSTRUST CAME AS PROTEST AGAINST AYE PRESS INTERVIEW
SHAHNAVAZ GAVE LOCAL NEWSPAPER WHICH ~~RECEIVED~~ APPEARED TODAY PARA DEMAND CAME
WHEN COMMISSIONS ACTIVITIES JAPANWISE WERE HARDLY ONEDAY OLD (MORE)

41420 ADD 41400 SHAHNAVAZ IN HIS PRESS INTERVIEW NIPPON TIMES MADE REFERENCES
TO JEWELRY COMMA AMERICAN OCCUPATION AND PRESENT JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER
SHIGEMITSU PARA REFERRING JEWELLERY HE SAID HIS INTERVIEW QUOTE SOCALLED TREASURE IN
FORM DIAMONDS AND OTHER PRECIOUS STONES BOSE WAS SUPPOSED TO BEEN CARRYING IS AYE
MYTH STOP ACTUALLY THEY WERE ORNAMENTS OF NO GREAT VALUE STOP EYE KNOW IT BECAUSE
EYE WAS IN BOSES GOVERNMENT IN EXILE STOP ITEMS WERE SENT INDIA AND THEY NOW IN
NATIONAL MUSEUM NEW DELHI UNQUOTE PARA SHAHNAVAZ ALSO SAID COMMISSION HAD COME
JAPAN QUOTE WITH OPEN MIND OUTFIND TRUTH STOP WE HAVE NO PREOCCUPATION ABOUT IT
ONE WAY OR OTHER DASH WHETHER BOSE DID OR DIDNT DIE IN AUGUST 1945 UNQUOTE (MORE)

41430 ADD 41420 SHAHNAVAZS REFERENCE AMERICAN OCCUPATION WAS MADE IN REPLY TO
EXPLAINING DELAY SEVERAL YEARS IN INVESTIGATION PARA HE SAID QUOTE WE DIDNT COME
EARLIER BECAUSE JAPAN WAS OCCUPIED BY AMERICA STOP THERE MIGHT BEEN AMERICAN
INTERFERENCE AND BESIDES JAPANESE PEOPLE MIGHT BEEN EMBARRASED UNQUOTE PARA SHAHNAVAZ
ALSO DENIED AS QUOTE TOTALLY UNFOUNDED UNQUOTE REPORT THAT INQUIRY BEING MADE THIS
LATE DATE TO FIND NEW POLITICAL LEADER REPLACE PREMIER NEHRU PARA REFERRING SHIGEMITSU
SHAHNAVAZ OUTPOINTED QUOTE SHIGEMITSU WHO WAS FOREIGN MINISTER IN LAST DAYS OF WAR
AND KNEW BOSE WELL IS NOW FOREIGN MINISTER AGAIN UNQUOTE (MORE)

(49)

41435 ADD 41430 TWO INDIANS DASH LLL RRR MIGLANI FOREIGN NEWS EDITOR ASAHI
EVENING NEWS AND FORMERLY FOREIGN NEWS EDITOR NIPPON TIMES AND AAA MMM NAIR
FORMERLY CHIEF LIAISON OFFICER BETWEEN JAPANESE ARMY AND INDIAN INDEPENDENCE
LEAGUE UNQUOTE STATEMENTWISE SAID QUOTE IT IS EVIDENT FROM SHAHNAVAZS INTERVIEW
THAT HE HAS PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT WHOLE BOSE CASE STOP IT FOLLOWS
CONCLUSIVELY THAT COLLECTION EVIDENCE BY COMMISSION UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP
WILL CERTAINLY BE FARFICAL UNQUOTE PARA INDIANS SAID THEY HAD EVIDENCE WHICH
THEY WERE READY PUT BEFORE COMMISSION TO SHOW THAT QUOTE TREASURE HAS VITAL
LINK WITH BOSE CASE STOP BUT NOW WE FEEL GREATLY RELUCTANT APPEAR AT ALL BEFORE
COMMISSION FOR EVIDENCE VIEW CHAIRMANS PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS UNQUOTE PARA THEY
ALSO FELT SHAHNAVAZS INTERVIEW MAY COMPEL OTHERS ALSO QUOTE WHO ARE GREATLY
INTERESTED IN CLEARING BOSE CASE FOR GOOD OF INDOJAPANESE RELATIONS UNQUOTE
TO STAY AWAY PARA (MORE)

41440 ADD 41435 MIGLANI NAIR CHARACTERISED SHAHNAVAZS REFERENCE SHIGEMITSU
AND AMERICAN OCCUPATION AS QUOTE UNFORTUNATE UNQUOTE IN WAY GOOD RELATIONS
BETWEEN INDIA JAPAN INDIA AMERICA STOP THEY ASKED DOES SHAHNAVAZ MEAN SAY
COMMISSION WOULDNT BEEN APPOINTED IF SHIGEMITSU WASNT FOREIGN MINISTER PARA
BOTH INDIANS SAID AFTER READING INTERVIEW THEY CONVINCED SHAHNAVAZ QUOTE IS
UNFIT PRESIDE OVER HISTORIC COMMISSION AND IT LEAVES NO ALTERNATIVE BUT DEMAND
GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE INDIA RECALL HIM FOR REPLACEMENT BY SUITABLE PERSONALITY
UNQUOTE PTI

(47)

41600 TOKYO 9/5 SHAHNAVAZ CONFIRMED HIS CONTROVERSIAL PRESSINTERVIEW TO PTI LATER
TODAY PARA WHEN HIS ATTENTION DRAWN TO OBJECTION BY TWO INDIANS HE TOLD PTI
QUESTION JEWELLERY NOT INCLUDED IN TERMS OF REFERENCE OF ~~EXAMINATION~~ COMMITTEE
STOP QUOTE IF IT COMES UP INCIDENTALLY COMMITTEE WILL WRITE IT DOWN AND REPORT
GOVERNMENT STOP COMMITTEE DOES NOT INTEND MAKE DETAILED INVESTIGATION INTO
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ SO CALLED TREASURE UNQUOTE PARA LEARNIT NAIR MIGLANI BEEN APPROACHED
APPEAR BEFORE COMMITTEE FOR EVIDENCE MAY 18 PTI

STATEMENT BY A.M. NAIR AND L.R. MIGLANI.

WE ARE GREATLY ~~PERPLEXED~~ PERTURBED TO READ IN TODAY'S (MAY 9, 1956) NIPPON TIMES AN INTERVIEW GIVEN BY MR SHAHNAVAZ KHAN, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOSE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

INITIALLY IN HIS MR. KHAN IS STATED TO HAVE DENIED EXISTENCE OF VALUABLE RICHES WITH NETAJI BOSE. HE IS QUOTED TO HAVE SAID THE SO CALLED TREASURE WHICH NETAJI WAS " SUPPOSED" TO HAVE BEEN CARRYING IS A " MYTH".

IT IS EVIDENT FROM HIS INTERVIEW THAT HE HAS PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT THE WHOLE BOSE CASE AND IT FOLLOWS CONCLUSIVELY THAT COLLECTION OF EVIDENCE BY THE COMMISSION UNDER HIS CHAIRMANSHIP WILL CERTAINLY BE FARFICAL.

MR. KHAN'S INTERVIEW HAS COME AT A TIME WHEN THE COMMITTEE HAS HARDLY STARTED FUNCTIONING SINCE ITS ARRIVAL A FEW DAYS AGO.

WE BELIEVE IT IS AN ATTEMPT ON HIS PART TO DISCOURAGE A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION INTO THE LINKS BETWEEN THE JEWELLERY ROBBERY AND BOSE MYSTERY.

WE HAVE EVIDENCE WHICH WE WERE READY TO PUT BEFORE THE COMMITTEE TO SHOW THAT TREASURE HAS A VITAL LINK WITH BOSE CASE.

WE NOW FEEL GREATLY RELUCTANT TO APPEAR AT ALL BEFORE THE COMMITTEE FOR EVIDENCE IN VIEW OF THE CHAIRMAN'S PRECONCEIVED NOTIONS.

WE ALSO FEEL OTHERS WHO ARE GREATLY INTERESTED IN CLEARING THE BOSE MYSTERY FOR THE GOOD OF INDO-JAPANESE RELATIONS MAY NOW FEEL COMPELLED TO STAY AWAY.

WE FEEL MR. KHAN'S UNFORTUNATE INTERVIEW MIGHT HAVE ALREADY DONE AN IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO THE CAUSE OF INDO-JAPANESE RELATIONS TO IMPROVE WHICH MANY JAPANESE AND INDIANS HAVE BEEN EAGERLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THE DAY WHEN THIS BOSE CASE IS SOLVED FOR THE GOOD OF BOTH THE NATIONS.

WE ALSO REGRET HIS REFERENCE TO MR. MEMORU SHIGEMITSU, JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTER, IN HIS INTERVIEW, AND TO AMERICAN OCCUPATION IN JAPAN. WE FEEL IT IS UNFORTUNATE AND STANDS IN THE WAY OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND JAPAN AND INDIA AND AMERICA.

DOES MR. KHAN BY HIS REFERENCE TO MR. SHIGEMITSU MEAN TO SAY THAT THE ENQUIRY COMMITTEE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN APPOINTED IF MR. SHIGEMITSU WAS NOT THE PRESENT

(PRESENT) FOREIGN MINISTER ?

THE WHOLE INTERVIEW AS READ BY US IN THE NIPPON TIMES CONVINCES US THAT MR. SHAHNAFAZ KHAN IS UNFIT TO ~~XXXX~~ PRESIDE OVER THIS HISTORIC COMMITTEE AND LEAVES US WITH NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO DEMAND OF THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF INDIA TO RECALL HIM ~~XXX~~ FOR REPLACEMENT BY A SUITABLE PERSONALITY.

(SD). L.R. MIGLANI.

(SD). A.M. NAIR.